

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 EUR-10 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 SAM-01 USIA-04 ARA-10

SPC-01 DRC-01 /077 W

----- 120208

R 110645Z FEB 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9534

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 1513

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, TW, US

SUBJECT:CHINESE PRESS REPRESENTATION: HONG KONG

REF: STATE 23516 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. FOLLOWING REPORTS INFO REQUESTED REFTEL RE NCNA  
AND CNA OFFICES IN HONG KONG. END SUMMARY.

1. HONG KONG IS UNIQUE AMONG ADDRESSEES LISTED REFTEL IN SENSE  
THAT FOR MANY YEARS VARIOUS UNOFFICIAL AND QUASI-OFFICIAL  
ORGANIZATIONS CLOSELY AFFILIATED WITH PRC OR GRC HAVE BEEN CO-  
LOCATED HERE. BOTH NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY (NCNA) AND CENTRAL  
NEWS AGENCY(CNA) MAINTAIN ACTIVE OFFICES AND STAFF IN COLONY  
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WHICH HAS OVER FIFTY CHINESE LANGUAGE DAILIES WHOSE EDITORIAL

POLICIES RANGE FROM PRO-KMT TO INDEPENDENT TO PRO-PRC, WITH SEVERAL DAILIES BEING VIRTUAL AJUNCTS TO PEKING'S OR TAIPEI'S INFORMATION ORGANS.

2. WITH REFERNECE TO HONG KONG GOVERNMENT (HKG) VIEW OF CNA-NCNA CO-EXISTENCE HERE, HKG ASSISTANT POLAD GEORGE TOLD CONGENOFFS THAT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE NEITHER NCNA NOR CNA HAD EVER MADE ISSUE OF OTHER'S PRESENCE TO THE HKG. WHILE EACH ORGANIZATION NO DOUBT MAINTAINED DEFINITE SOCIAL PROHIBITIONS AND HOSTILE FEELINGS ABOUT THE OTHER, HE KNEW OF NO APPROACHES FROM EITHER SIDE TO EJECT OR RESTRICT ACTIVITIES OF THE OTHER. GEORGE ADDED THAT IN PAST YEAR AND HALF PRC ELEMENTS HAD NOT EVEN RAISED ANY FUSS ABOUT THE PRESENCE IN HONG KONG OF BENJAMIN LO, GRC MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIAL WHO OSTENSIBLY OPERATES LOCAL CHUNG HWA TRAVEL SERVICE BUT IS WIDELY REFERRED TO AS "TAIWAN'S UNOFFICIAL CONSUL IN HONG KONG." GEORGE STRESSED PRINCIPLE THAT WHILE NCNA AND CNA MAY HAVE OTHER FUNCTIONS, THEY WERE REGARDED AND TREATED BY HKG IN THE SAME WAY AS PRIVATE NEWS AGENCIES OR WIRE SERVICES WERE. HE NOTED SAME APPROACH IS USED TOWARDS THE VARIOUS BANKS, TRAVEL SERVICES AND TRADING FIRMS LOCALLY IDENTIFIED UNOFFICIALLY OR SEMI-OFFICIALLY WITH PRC OR GRC.

3. QUESTION OF NCNA AND CNA ACCREDITATION AND PRESS MEMBERSHIP DOES NOT POSE MUCH PROBLEM HERE. HKG DOES NOT MAINTAIN PRESS ACCREDITATION SYSTEM, HAVING DROPPED ISSUANCE OF PRESS IDENTITY CARDS SOME YEARS AGO WHEN PRESS LIST BECAME TO LONG TO ADMINISTER. HKG'S OFFICIAL INFORMATION ARM, GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICE (GIS) USES HANDOUT AND WRITTEN NOTICES TO EFFECT COORDINATION OF HONG KONG'S MANY CORRESPONDENTS, DAILIES, NEWS AGENCIES AND WIRE SERVICES. ADVANCE NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF GIS PRESS CONFERENCES, BRIEFINGS THUS ARE DISTRIBUTED THROUGH PRESS NOTIFICATION BOXES. NO FORMAL INVITATIONS TO BRIEFINGS ARE ISSUED. NCNA REPRESENTATIVES ALTHOUGH THEY RECEIVE SAME PRESS NOTICES AS OTHER JOURNALISTS REPORTEDLY SELDOM ATTEND GIS BRIEFINGS BUT THEIR AFFILIATED LEFTIST PRESS REPORTERS DO. CNA REPRESENTATIVES ON THE OTHER HAND DO REGULARLY ATTEND AS DO THEIR PRO-KMT PRESS COLLEAGUES. MAIN PRESS CLUB HERE IS FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT'S CLUB (FCC), A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION. FCC MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES SEVERAL CNA REPRESENTATIVES AND CNA BUREAU

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CHIEF EDDY TSENG IS CURRENTLY ON THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS. NO NCNA REPRESENTATIVES HAVE JOINED CLUB BUT NUMBER HAVE BEEN IN CLUB AS GUESTS OF MEMBERS. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS FCC HAS INVITED NCNA MEMBERS AS CLUB GUESTS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS, SUCH AS FILMINGS, RECEPTIONS, ETC. ON SUCH OCCASIONS NCNA REPS HAVE DECLINED, LATER EXPLAINING THAT THEY COULD NOT ATTEND BECAUSE OF PRESENCE OF CNA MEMBERS. HOWEVER, WHEN NCNA REPS HAVE COME TO CLUB AS GUESTS OF INDIVIDUAL FCC MEMBERS, THIS HAS NOT BEEN

ISSUE. SOME HAVE ASKED ABOUT CLUB MEMBERSHIP RULES, DUES, ETC.,  
BUT NONE HAVE APPLIED FOR MEMBERSHIP. ONLY OTHER PRESS CLUB IS  
HONG KONG JOURNALISTS' ASSOCIATION (HKJA), A NEWLY ORGANIZED  
PRIVATE SOCIAL GROUP. HKJA MEMBERSHIP AT PRESENT IS SMALL AND  
CONSISTS ONLY OF LOCAL HONG KONG REPORTERS AND NO WIRE  
SERVICE OR NEWS AGENCY  
REPS HAVE YET JOINED CLUB.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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